

Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 1076, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

February 26, 2023

To the Joint Public Health Committee,

Dear Legislators and fellow citizens of this amazing state in which we live in, I am writing a testimony today, to discuss why I am in support of PASSING SB01076.

Please consider approving this bill, and above all else, recognize the incredible positive impact it would have for countless individuals, their families, and the health care system in Connecticut.

First, I would like to share that while you may already know the statistical side of how many states already offer this as a viable treatment option for terminally ill patients, I personally know 3 people who would have benefited from and made the choice to select this end of life care. To aid and assist the dying and terminally ill, it should be at the discretion of the individual. I have watched my step father, grandmother, and a good friend's parents pass away after horrific, long term, unnecessary suffering. Offering this option to individuals, who could write this into their medical directive while terminal, or into their living will, just as they would request a DNR, should be standard. There is zero that offering this option would do to negatively impact a community, on either a small or larger scale. I am proud to be a part of an ever changing political landscape in CT, and I know that there has consistently been support on both sides of party lines. Passing Bill SB01706 would only continue the growing bipartisanship of our community in this state.

Secondly, when discussing the financial burden of hospice care on a family, and on insurance companies, and on the health care workers, NOT offering an option outside of palliative care and hospice leaves many terminal patients to die slow and agonizing deaths that in turn cost families and the healthcare system exuberant excess spending. Death really should never be about the "money", but in all reality, when your parent is dying, you are responsible for caring for that parent 24/7, until they pass away. Many families, including my own, have, and will, take great losses, both spiritually and financially.

I know that some individuals would not choose this option for their end of life, but those who would, are not able to. We owe any person who lives in our beautiful state the RIGHT to their own body every step, every moment they are on this earth. Offering aid and assistance in death and dying options to a hospice care plan is not new, and it is time for us to stand with the many many people who have constantly testified and proved that Bill SB01706 needs to be approved.

Thank you for your support in this sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

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